

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/913,338

Examiner

Paul Gurzo

Applicant(s)

GILES, ROGER

Art Unit

2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/15/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 February 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As the claimed invention was read in light of the specification, the prior art of record fails to disclose or render obvious an ion source for a mass spectrometer which operates at a low pressure comprising an atmospheric pressure sample ioniser operable at atmospheric pressure to provide a sample flow containing desired sample ions, an interface chamber having an entrance aperture, and exit aperture and an exhaust port, the entrance aperture being arranged to receive sample ioniser entrained in a gas flow, and the exit aperture being arranged for sample ions to exit the interface chamber to the mass spectrometer, and a vacuum pump in communication with the exhaust port of the interface chamber to hold the pressure thereof at a pressure intermediate the operating pressure of the mass spectrometer and atmospheric pressure, the interface chamber defining a flow passage for gas and entrained sample ions from the entrance aperture to the exhaust port the exit aperture being located in the flow passage between the entrance aperture and the exhaust port wherein the flow passage is shaped to redirect substantially all the gas and entrained sample ions entering the entrance aperture before they reach the exit aperture and to cause said redirected ions to flow within a distance "d" of the exit aperture, where d is less than five times the diameter of the exit aperture, and to provide no line of sight between the entrance and exit apertures.

The closest prior art, Bajic I and Bajic II, do not teach redirecting substantially all the gas and entrained sample ions entering the entrance aperture before they reach the

Art Unit: 2881

exit aperture and to cause said redirected ions to flow within a distance "d" of the exit aperture. Instead, they teach a segment (20) of the T that forms a dead volume in which the gas flow is substantially stagnant or turbulent so that the velocity of the sample ions and any other molecules or particles within this segment is low and has no net direction.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Gurzo whose telephone number is (703) 306-0532. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thurs. 7:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Lee can be reached on (703) 308-4116. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

PMG
September 5, 2003


JOHN R. LEE
SUPERVISOR, RECENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL STAFF